

## **UUSC's Response to Haitian Immigration Crisis**

With each passing day we are learning more about the devastation Hurricane Matthew caused in southwestern Haiti. UUSC partners-locally led grassroots organizations at the front lines of this disaster—are assessing the storm's impacts and working to address the needs of those most marginalized.

But what if I told you there is an additional humanitarian crisis affecting thousands of Haitians, not in Haiti but here in the United States? A new Department of Homeland Security (DHS) policy puts many Haitians at risk of deportation. Please act now to avert a U.S.-made disaster on the heels of the devastation wrought by Hurricane Matthew at <a href="https://www.uusc.org/stophaitiandeportation">www.uusc.org/stophaitiandeportation</a>.

With the loss in lives and property still being measured, this is no time to start deporting people back to Haiti. Join UUSC in telling DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson:

- Restore U.S. humanitarian policy that allows Haitians seeking refuge to enter the country.
- Allow all Haitians already in the United States to stay and remain safe as the country recovers.
- Keep families together in all cases.

Let's treat Haitians in the United States and on the border with the respect and dignity they deserve. Tell Secretary Johnson: We must restore U.S. policy that allows Haitians to enter the United States, allow those already in the country to stay, and keep families together. Thanks for all you do for justice,

Hannah Hafter Senior Program Leader for Advocacy, UUSC



## Sample Letter to Secretary Jeh Johnson, DHS

Subj: Restore Humanitarian Parole for Haitians and grant TPS Status to Haiti

Dear Secretary Johnson,

As a UUSC supporter, I am concerned that in the wake of the devastation Hurricane Matthew has caused in Haiti, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is making a natural disaster worse through inhumane immigration policies. Although I am relieved that deportation flights have been temporarily suspended, it is not enough.

Revoking parole for Haitian immigrants currently in the United States and sending Haitians seeking safe entry to detention adds to the burdens on Haitians rather than relieving them. In addition, DHS has separated families by prioritizing mothers and children for humanitarian parole while leaving fathers behind.

With the loss in lives and property still being measured, this is no time to begin deporting people back to Haiti. I urge you to:

- Restore special entry status for Haitians arriving at the border and release the hundreds of Haitians detained under the September 22 policy.
- Re-designate Haiti for Temporary Protected Status in the wake of Hurricane Matthew.
- Expand the Haitian Family Reunification Program.

The tragedy that has occurred in Haiti is a terrible natural disaster, one deserving of our country's wholehearted support. Now is the time for the DHS to do its part by removing burdens on Haitian's on efforts, not creating new ones.

Sincerely, [Name]

Go to www.uusc.org/stophaitiandeportation to sign and a letter.



## **UUSC's Response to Haitian Immigration Crisis**

Many have reached out to UUSC to ask about how you can be of service to those most impacted by Hurricane Matthew.

In the wake of the devastation Hurricane Matthew has caused in Haiti, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is making a natural disaster worse through inhumane immigration policies. On September 22, 2016 DHS revoked a policy that allowed survivors of the 2010 Haitian earthquake to enter and stay in the United States. Deportation flights have been temporarily suspended, but that is not enough.

Deporting Haitian immigrants currently in the United States and sending those seeking safe entry to detention adds to the burdens on Haitians rather than relieving them. In addition, Department of Homeland Security has separated families by prioritizing mothers and children for humanitarian parole while leaving fathers behind.

With the loss in lives and property due to Hurricane Matthew still being measured, this is no time to start deporting people back to Haiti. Please join us in telling Secretary Johnson to halt deportations to Haiti, restore humanitarian parole for Haitian immigrants, and expand family reunification opportunities for Haitians.

UUSC is continuing our working with local partners in Haiti to conduct an assessment of the greatest threats survivors face and put together an emergency crisis response. Meanwhile, we're also working to strengthen our emergency response capacity—a capacity that can be a matter of life and death for the most marginalized and the most vulnerable. Please, help us respond to this humanitarian crisis and continue our life saving work around the world by rushing a generous gift to UUSC right now.



#### Join UUSC and stand up for the rights of the most marginalized

Go to <a href="https://www.uusc.org/stophaitiandeportation">www.uusc.org/stophaitiandeportation</a> and send a letter to Secretary Jeh Johnson calling on the Department of Homeland Security to:

- Restore special entry status for Haitians arriving at the border and release the hundreds of Haitians detained under the September 22 policy.
- Re-designate Haiti for Temporary Protected Status in the wake of Hurricane Matthew.
- Expand the Haitian Family Reunification Program.

#### **Support UUSC**

UUSC is also working to strengthen our emergency response capacity—a capacity that can be a matter of life and death for the most marginalized and the most vulnerable. Help us respond to this humanitarian crisis and continue our life saving work around the world by rushing a generous gift to UUSC right now at <a href="https://www.uusc.org/hurricane-matthew-response">www.uusc.org/hurricane-matthew-response</a>.

#### **Take Action**

Take part in UUSC-sponsored advocacy efforts to increase refugee admissions, adequately fund resettlement programs, end family detention, and provide refugee children with adequate legal representation at their deportation hearings. Visit the UUSC Advocacy Center at www.uusc.org/action-center.

# Join UUSC's Refugee Rapid Response Network

Keep track of the latest news about refugee rights and how you can help protect them. Help the United States set an example that makes us proud by participating in actions and programs in your community, or by providing support for humanitarian assistance throughout the world. Sign up at <a href="https://www.uusc.org/rrrn">www.uusc.org/rrrn</a>.